

What Time Will Masses Be On July 7-8?

Last week's bulletin, May 20, outlined the fact that as we transition to a new pastor our two parishes have to face the priest shortage. We are receiving one priest, and he may have help for one Mass per weekend. That means we have to trim six Masses down to four, and space them at least an hour and a half apart, so that in the event there is no helper priest on a given weekend our new pastor can celebrate all four. We have to make this decision now to have time to get the word out and also to make new schedules for ministers and musicians.

The Parish Councils met together on Tuesday evening to discuss what is always a difficult issue. It was a good meeting. Everyone was allowed to speak freely and honestly, and yet the meeting was cordial. There were even moments of laughter to offset the moments of tension. **The bottom line is that we want to be able to serve our two parish communities, affirm the identities and cultures of each parish, and help our new young pastor succeed.**

Step One: The consensus on Sunday morning was reached once we understood the dynamics of each parish's Sunday experience. Saint Rose has a Sunday School program for 3 year olds, 4 year olds, Kindergartners, and First Grade. The timing is the same as the Mass time. The children are in school and do not come to Mass, and the parents attend Mass. Corpus Christi has a Sunday School program for age 4, and Kindergarten through fifth grade. The program starts one half hour before Mass. The last ten minutes of their class hour is Liturgy of the Word for Children and then they come into Mass at the collection because third fourth and fifth graders receive Communion. Earlier versions of Mass schedules taught us that 11am is too late for Saint Rose because the children are reaching lunch time and/or nap time. Similarly, a 9am Mass at Corpus Christi makes Sunday School start at 8:30am and that is just too early. Years ago the Saint Rose Mass and Sunday School was at 9am, and the Corpus Christi Sunday School started at 10am with Mass at 10:30am. Those two Mass times are the necessary one and a half hours apart, so we chose to use those times.

Step Two: Knowing now that Saint Rose would have only one Sunday Mass, the Saturday Mass at Saint Rose would remain. For Corpus, the question was whether to keep the Saturday Mass or the Sunday evening Mass. **That was not as easy, and that's where we need your help.** Saturday Mass is a long standing reality at Corpus Christi. Sunday night has less history. Saturday is mostly Corpus Christi parishioners. Sunday night is a mixture of Corpus Christi and Saint Rose, some University students, and those who come because they have been out of town or had other responsibilities during the weekend and can still get to Mass at 6pm. Both Masses have merit but we can keep only one. So we came up with three scenarios. They are listed here as three options, but the list does not suggest a preference.

Scenario One: Keep the Sunday Mass at 6pm. That would make the schedule to be:

Saturday, 4:30pm at Saint Rose
Sunday, 9am at Saint Rose (Sunday School during the 9am Mass)
Sunday, 10:30am at Corpus Christi (Sunday School starts at 10am)
Sunday, 6pm at Corpus Christi

Scenario Two: Keep the Saturday Mass at Corpus Christi. That would make the schedule to be:

Saturday, 4pm at Saint Rose
Saturday, 5:30pm at Corpus Christi
Sunday, 9am at Saint Rose (Sunday School during the 9am Mass)
Sunday, 10:30am at Corpus Christi (Sunday School starts at 10am)

Note: In order to keep the hour and a half, the Saturday Mass at Saint Rose would start one half hour earlier and at Corpus Christi one half hour later. A 4pm Mass at Saint Rose would push wedding starts back to 1:30pm instead of 2pm.

Scenario Three: Keep the Sunday 6pm Mass for the summer, Memorial Day to Labor Day, and switch to the Saturday Mass from Labor Day to Memorial Day. That seasonal approach would make the schedule to be:

Summer Saturday, 4pm at Saint Rose
 Sunday, 9am at Saint Rose (No Sunday School)
 Sunday, 10:30am at Corpus Christi (No Sunday School)
 Sunday, 6pm at Corpus Christi

School Year Saturday, 4pm at Saint Rose
 Saturday, 5:30pm at Corpus Christi
 Sunday, 9am at Saint Rose (Sunday School during the 9am Mass)
 Sunday, 10:30am at Corpus Christi (Sunday School starts at 10am)

Note: In order to keep the hour and a half, the Saturday Mass at Saint Rose would start at 4pm as above and stay there all year rather than move back and forth between 4 and 4:30. A 4pm Mass at Saint Rose would push wedding starts back to 1:30pm instead of 2pm.

Parish Council members at both parishes will be around after all Masses this weekend and next weekend to hear your feedback. The Parish Councils will meet together again on Tuesday, June 5, to share your feedback and to make a final decision. Thank you for your help. Please keep our two parishes in your prayers.